


LEWIS, ALONZO R.

DRAWING 22

SCULPTORS-L
(BUSTS)

71.2009.037.02333



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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Alonzo Victor Lewis

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Alonzo Victor Lewis

SCULPTOR * PAINTER

Orig. letter in

MSS files

MAR. 24, 1935

Hon. Louis A. Warren;

Fort Wayne

Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren;

I take this opportunity of
thanking you for the procure-
of Lincoln photos and data which
has just reached me. I deeply
regret you were not given a better
photo of my own Spokane statue,
as I do truly think it a better intrepation
than as shown in the book. However,
one oftimes has to contend with poor
photography. I believe I have more
actual physical data of Lincoln than
any other sculptor, having almost
faithful measurements of his bone
structure even. Few sculptors can
give his measurements from the patella
to the os calcis. And one might say almost-
That this is the foundation of a true
representation of the man. The

(over)

large head I am^{anxious} to dispose
of, but seem to be in the wrong
section of the world to exploit it.

I used to ~~put~~ sit one of my small
children on the lobe of each ear
while I was building it - which
will give some idea of its size.

Let me thank you again
Dr. Warren for the book - and
I may add that no one's life can
help but be made better by
knowing more of the life of
that great man - Abraham Lincoln.

Faithfully yours

Alonzo Victor Lewis

2611 Eastlake Ave
Seattle
Wn.

Mar 24-35.

Orig. in MSS files

See This
Come! Come! Come!

It will make you a better American

THE "GREAT FACE"



ALONZO VICTOR LEWIS'
SCULPTURED

Children 10c

Admission 25c

Afternoon and evening

g and patriotic masterpiece. A mountain of clay. In man
30 people can stand on area
Is 11 ft. high
0,000 lbs used.
ud.

April 2, 1935

Mr. Alonzo Victor Lewis
2611 Eastlake Avenue
Seattle, Washington

My dear Mr. Lewis:

It was a pleasure to hear from you with reference to the work you have done on Lincoln and especially to learn you have in your possession the measurements of Lincoln's body which are considered authentic. We are greatly interested in these measurements and if you can give us any further information as to how they were acquired, we would like very much to make note of such facts as you have.

It was a pleasure for me indeed to see your statue at Tacoma and I think it is a very appreciative study of Lincoln.

It might be possible for us to find a market for your large head of Lincoln.

In what shape is it just now and if it were to be used for exterior work, what materials could be used to best advantage in its reproduction?

We often have inquiries from different organizations who anticipate making some Lincoln memorials and if we had some idea as to the top cost of such a figure as you have, we would know whether or not to recommend it.

You may feel sure we will keep the drawing of it in our files and possibly something may turn up which will allow us to recommend it to some prospective buyer.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JH

Director

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

SEATTLE OFFICE

TO Dr. Louis A. Warren

DATE September 9, 1935

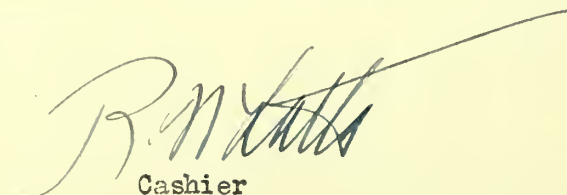
SUBJECT

An attorney in Seattle called me on the 'phone to see if we wished to purchase a bust of Lincoln.

This bust is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and is about 2 feet in width across the shoulders. It is a bust the same type as is used by the Lincoln Society here in Seattle. This bust was made by Alonzo Lewis, a sculptor who was commissioned by the National Government to make a statue in honor of the soldiers who gave their lives in France during the World War. This sculptor is supposed to have a national reputation, and a Miss Anderson, secretary to this attorney who owns the statue, whose address is 507 White Building, Seattle, Washington, called me on the 'phone and asked if we would be interested in purchasing it. She stated it was the same type of bust as is used on our outdoor advertising on the billboards, which advertising prompted her to call us.

They want \$35.00 for the bust, but will take \$25.00, I think. According to this Miss Anderson, Alonzo Lewis placed a value of \$300.00 on the bust. The attorney took it in in payment of a bill against Alonzo Lewis.

If you are interested, please let me know.


Cashier

R. N. Latta:VS

September 13, 1935

Mr. R. N. Latta, Cashier
Seattle Office

My dear Mr. Latta:

Your letter with reference to the Lincoln bust which is available in Seattle is very interesting indeed, and we would like very much to acquire this work of art.

You will please find enclosed a check for \$25.00, as you suggest you believe it can be purchased for that amount, but, as a last resort, if they refuse to let loose of it, we would be willing to pay the extra \$10.00 which they ask. In that instance we will have to ask you to furnish the extra money and draw on the Lincoln National Life Foundation for the amount.

It would be necessary for someone to supervise the packing as it must be very carefully done and you had better arrange for it to be taken care of and shipped to us collect, of course insuring it for \$100.00, I would say.

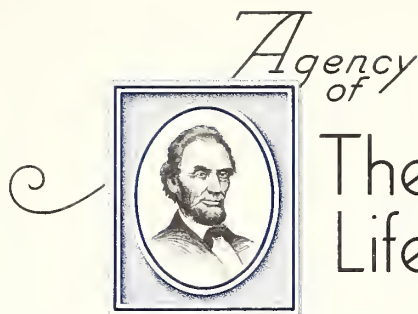
We thank you very much for keeping us in mind when valuable Lincoln items are available.

With kindest personal regards to all the force, I am

Very truly yours,

Louis A. Warren/H

Director



The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Home Office - FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Its name indicates its character

WASHINGTON BRANCH OFFICE
R. N. LATTI, CASHIER
1411 FOURTH AVENUE BLDG.
PHONE: EL 1922

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

September 25, 1935

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

I was successful in purchasing the Lincoln statue for \$25.00. You will remember you sent this \$25.00 with your letter of September 13.

I have today authorized the Bekins Moving and Storage Company to crate and pack this statue very carefully. They will bill us for the cost of the crating etc., and I will in turn send the bill to your office. We have arranged to ship the statue by Railway Express instead of the usual freight, as it does not cost very much more and at the same time it will receive better handling. We have also insured the statue for \$250.00 as the cost is practically negligible.

I might add that Mr. Anderson, the attorney who owned the statue, in talking to me yesterday stated that at the time of the sheriff's sale of Alonzo Lewis' personal properties that Alonzo Lewis would not allow the sheriff to take out of the house this Lincoln statue and one that he had made of Teddy Roosevelt, until Mr. Anderson would put up a \$1000 bond.

Dr. Louis A. Warren

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September 25, 1935

I am enclosing a receipt for the \$25.00 from the Equitable Securities Company, Inc., of which Mr. C. A. K. Anderson is the manager and attorney, for your files. I am also enclosing the authorization to the Bekins Moving and Storage Company to have the statue crated.

This statue will probably go forward tomorrow.

Very truly yours,



Cashier

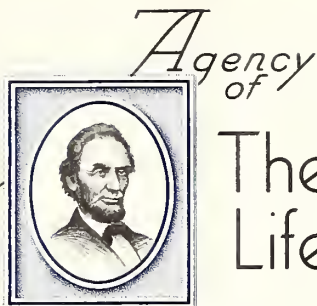
RNL:VS

R. N. Latta

End.

*Dr: Just learned that the statue will
be shipped to you Thursday night (9/26)
Bob*

LEWIS MUST



The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Home Office - FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Its name indicates its character

WASHINGTON BRANCH OFFICE
R. N. LATTA, CASHIER
1411 FOURTH AVENUE BLDG.
PHONE: EL 1922

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

September 28, 1935

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Enclosed is the bill for the cost
of creating the statue. I arranged to ship it by
Railway Express and hope that it arrives in good
order.

I will be pleased to know what you
think of it.

Very truly yours,

R. N. Latta
Cashier

RNL:VS
R. N. Latta
Enc.



Equitable Securities Co., Inc.

COLLECTORS SINCE 1912

507 WHITE-HENRY-STUART BUILDING PHONE ELLIOTT 4452
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Who
Owes
You?

Sept. 24 1935

Received from Mr. Latta \$25.00 covering payment in full for
plaster bust of Abraham Lincoln.

EQUITABLE SECURITIES COMPANY, INC.

By *[Signature]*
m gm

SEATTLE, WASH.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED To **BEKINS MOVING AND STORAGE CO.**

TWELFTH AND MADISON STREETS — PHONE EAST 9000
UNIVERSITY DEPOSITORY — E. 40TH AND 11TH N.E. — PHONE MELROSE 6000

You are hereby authorized to remove goods on _____, 19____ belonging to:

OWNER'S NAME James A. Harrison

FROM Lincoln Highway 16000 Lincoln Nebraska
Street Address City State

TO Lincoln High Bldg Fort Wayne Indiana
Street Address City State

PACK For Shipment yes @ _____ per hr. per man, plus material.
(Say Yes or No)

Note: If goods are to be shipped by rail or water they must be crated and packed in first class manner.

PACK For Storage _____ @ _____ per hr. per man, plus material.
(Say Yes or No)

Note: If goods are of fine quality and in good condition they should be wrapped in Heavy Paper and padded to prevent any possible damage in storing.

STORE In Private Room _____ Open Storage _____ Vault _____
(Say Yes or No)

Note: Storage rates are based on actual measurement and valuation. Handling charges (in and out) together equal a month's storage and apply on all storage accounts.

RUGS AND CARPETS Clean and Mothtreat _____
(Say Yes or No)

Note: To prevent damage by moth, rugs and carpets must be thoroughly cleaned and mothtreated when stored and the service repeated at intervals as required.

SHIP { Via Motor Van @ \$ _____ per hr. Via Lift Van @ \$ _____ per 100#
@ \$ _____ per 100#
In Pool Car @ \$ _____ per 100# Open Freight: Rail _____ Water _____

VALUATION 100 cents per pound; and unless higher valuation be declared the value of this shipment shall be deemed to be **TEN CENTS** per pound. Your liability in moving, packing, storing, handling and shipping, in case of loss or damage, is limited to the declared valuation, or if none be declared, then to **TEN CENTS** per pound.

Note: To obtain lowest prevailing rates, goods must be released to value of **TEN CENTS** per pound. Higher rates will be charged for higher valuation.

INSURANCE Fire \$ _____ Transit \$ _____ Ordinary @ \$ _____ E.C.L. All Risk @ \$ 200.00

Note: Ample insurance is recommended. Rates are reasonable. An owner cannot afford to be without a policy.

ACCESS Also allow delivery or access to the following members of family or otherwise _____

ACCEPTED:
BEKINS MOVING & STORAGE CO.

Per _____

Signed R. K. Latta Owner or Agent.

Services are performed only at standard rates based on time and material, weight, measurement, and valuation. No exceptions.

Mailing Address _____

October 2, 1935

Mr. R. N. Latta, Cashier
Seattle Office

My dear Mr. Latta:

Thank you very much for your lead which made possible the acquisition of the Lincoln bust. It has arrived in fine shape and it will make a very excellent addition to our library and museum.

We appreciate more than I can tell you the interest our men in the field are taking in our museum and we have been able to secure some very valuable items through their assistance.

Thanking you again for your interest and trouble,
I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

ALONZO VICTOR LEWIS

Orig. in MSS
files

Sculptor - Painter

SEATTLE, U. S. A.

June 16 - 1937

Dear Dr Warren:


Somehow I cannot help but feel this great head of Abraham Lincoln has a place somewhere with "The Lincoln Life"

I am about to go to San Francisco to try and get a concession and show it there at the Exposition. I've had this work a long time and something must soon be done with it. Properly exhibited it would prove a great drawing card. It was suggested to me that the "Lincoln Life Ins. Co" would be doing a smart thing to procure this colossal face as their exhibit at the Exposition. I think it's worth any ones business to make a trip here to see it, if interested.

It would also be a grand feature set up in front of your buildings in Fort Wayne.

May I have the pleasure of a letter from you. If your company is not interested I may lease it to an amusement company who would feature it as a patriotic exhibit.

kindest wishes

Alonzo Victor Lewis


2611 Eastlake Ave.

June 18, 1937

Alonzo Victor Lewis
2611 Eastlake Avenue
Seattle, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

As Dr. Warren is out of town, we cannot answer your letter of June 16. in reference to The Lincoln National Life Company purchasing your sculptural work of Abraham Lincoln.

However, we shall refer your letter to his attention immediately upon his return.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Dr. Warren

GMCO Green Skin

July 15, 1937

Mr. Alonzo V. Lewis
2611 Eastlake Ave.
Seattle, Wash.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

I am just back from my vacation and find your letter on my desk referring to the colossal face which you have made of Abraham Lincoln.

There is a possibility we might be interested in its acquisition if the price were so that we could exhibit it at not too great a cost as I am very sure we would not anticipate putting very much money into it.

First of all, will you advise us whether or not it is weather proof, that is, whether it will withstand rain, heat, etc. Second, the actual dimensions of the entire piece, if it is all in one piece, and its weight. Third, the lowest possible price at which you would dispose of it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

Seattle, Mar. 7, 1938. LINCOLN NATIONAL
PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

Advertising Manager,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Referred to
REC'D MAR 8 1938

Answered
LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Dear Sir:

Several days ago one of your representatives was in town to inspect a statue of Lincoln by Alonzo Victor Lewis. I understand there was some informal discussion about sale of the statue. I regret that I, as Mr. Lewis' business manager, was out of the city at the time because I have been desirous for some time of presenting an idea to your company that should have advertising appeal.

The enormous face of Lincoln that Mr Lewis has just completed after four years work is 12 feet tall, just five feet smaller than the Egyptian Sphinx. It is the largest face ever modeled in clay.

I want to see this "American Sphinx" displayed at the San Francisco Exposition where 20,000,000 visitors will gather during 1939. Naturally some commercial tieup will be necessary to cover the overhead.

My thought is to put Lincoln in a dignified exhibition building where the crowds can sit in comfortable seats at one end and gaze across a landscaped, roofless middle-ground to the big face of Old Abe, properly lighted and enshrined under a roofed canopy at the opposite end. I assure you that the face is a study that people will stand or sit for half an hour to gaze upon. When they are ready to leave, Lincoln-conscious as they will be from their study of the colossal face, your representative at the door would hand them some dignified piece of literature that would tie in your business with Lincoln at a time when it would be deeply etched in their memories.

During the run of the exposition several million persons from all parts of the country would thus get your message in surroundings that would almost be those of a Lincoln shrine. And they would be largely monied persons, for poor people do not travel across the country to visit expositions.

Your end of the cost would be only enough to rent the 40 x 90 foot plot for an exhibition building and to permit Mr Lewis personally to go to San Francisco, erect the building and set up the big face to the best advantage in it. Five thousand dollars would be ample to cover all your expenses except, of course, those of your representative and

page two....

your literature he would use during the course of the exposition.

As a long time Scripps editor, I know something of news values and I am confident that this "world's biggest face" of America's best-loved patriot will become one of the most talked about features of the Exposition. It ties up your company with long time advertising, of the very best human interest type, with an enormous national audience, and at a ridiculously low price of something like \$15 per day.

Inasmuch as proper location on the grounds for such an exhibit is important and spaces are being allocated rapidly, we should like to close a deal with some national Lincoln concern as soon as possible. We are offering you first call because we believe you typify the dignified commercial tieup it is important for us to maintain. If the advertising value of such a feature appeals to you, please advise us as promptly as possible.

Photographs of the Lincoln head are available if you would care to see them before making your decision.

Cordially,

A. J. RITCHIE.

Business Representative for

ALONZO VICTOR LEWIS.

Sorrento Hotel,
Seattle.

r/s

March 8, 1938

Mr. A. J. Ritchie
Business Representative for
Alonzo Victor Lewis
Sorrento Hotel
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Thank you for your letter of March 7.

I am sorry to tell you this Company has no plans for entering any exhibit in the San Francisco Exhibition of 1939 and consequently we cannot be considered prospects for the advertising feature you have in mind.

I am referring your letter, however, to Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director of our Lincoln museum, who is out of town at present. It may be that he will be interested in the photographs you mention.

Yours very truly,

Advertising Manager

F.L.Fisher/EC

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

SEATTLE OFFICE

TO Dr. Louis A. Warren DATE September 23, 1938
Director Lincoln Nat'l Life Foundation

SUBJECT

Dear Dr. Warren:

Last Saturday night it was my privilege to attend a Republican Party Meeting at the Civic Auditorium where there were between 5,000 and 6,000 people. Of course, this was in the nature of a Republican Rally at which Mr. Bernarr McFadden spoke. There was an event that took place at this meeting that I thought you would be interested in and that is my purpose in writing to you.

After the dinner the Star Spangled Banner was played and a curtain went up on the stage and there was the American Flag. The American Flag was raised and the entire auditorium was darkened and there was an immense head of Abraham Lincoln. This head of Lincoln was sculptured by Alonzo Lewis whom you know. The head must have been 12 to 15 feet high and about 8 feet in width. It was mounted on wheels obscured from the public's view and the head was rotated from side to side giving the appearance that Lincoln was actually in the room and was looking the crowd over. It made quite an impression on me and I know it made an impression on the people at the table where I sat as they all remarked about it. Alonzo Lewis gave a talk over the public address system that he had been building this head for 4 years. It is made out of plaster and I believe that it will be taken to the Worlds Fair at San Francisco next year and I believe to New York the following year. I just thought you would wish to know this.



Cashier

R. N. Latta:EM

September 28, 1938

Mr. R. N. Latta, Cashier
Seattle Office

My dear Mr. Latta:

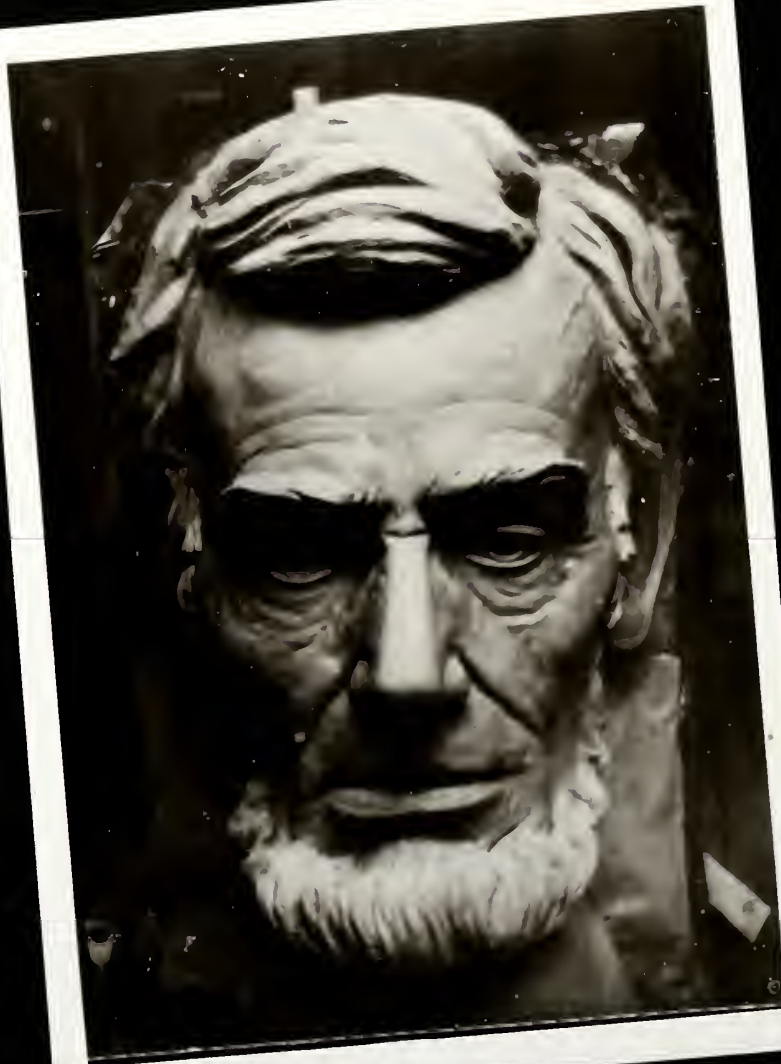
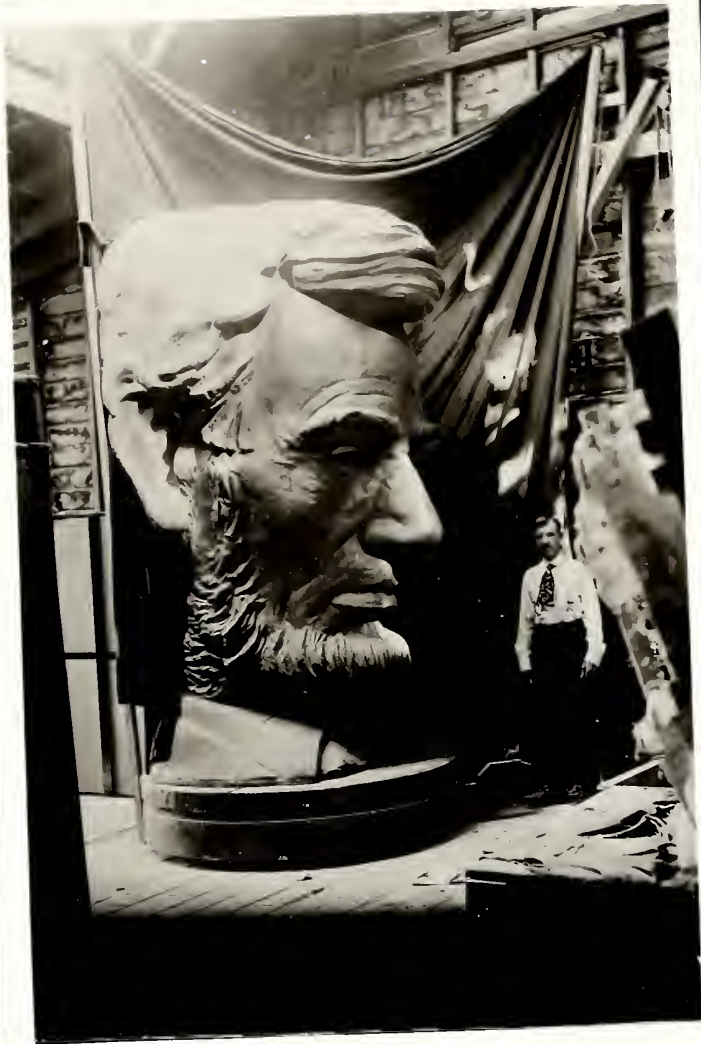
Thank you for giving us the very interesting account of the display of the Lewis Abraham Lincoln head.

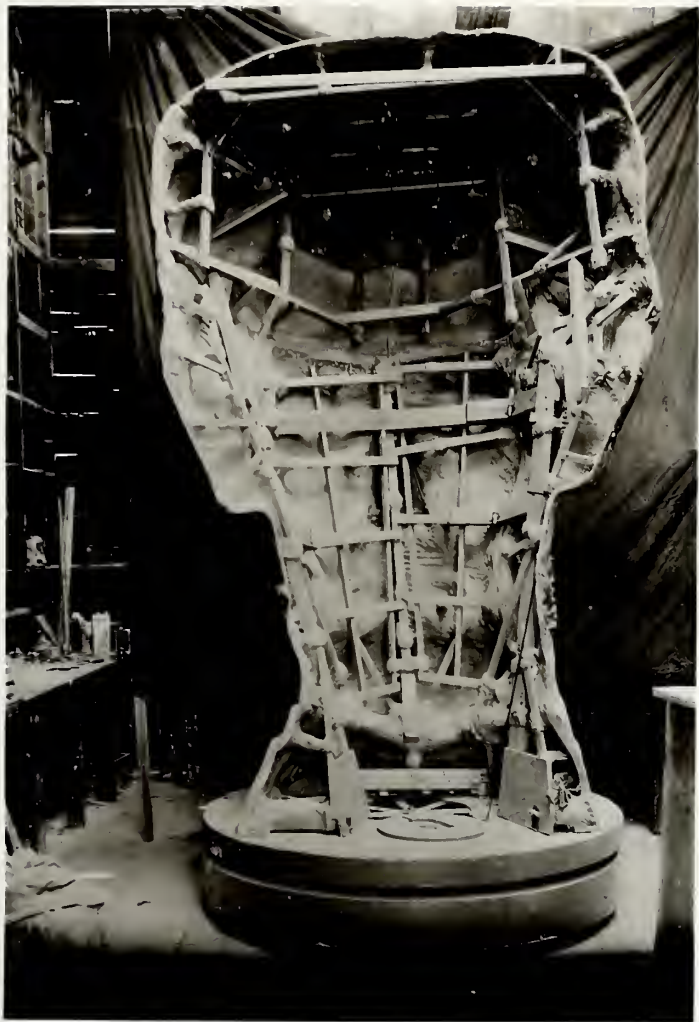
While in Seattle we visited the studio of Mr. Lewis and saw this great head which he has had made for the past few years. We tried to get him to put a price on it but he would not do so telling us then that there was some possibility of it being shown in San Francisco. We are glad indeed that he has been able to locate it and we think it is a very commendable piece of work.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director





Concrete And Wood Carving Sculpture Exhibit Attracts Many Tourists To Farm Near Rushford

On a side road three miles west of highway 43 between Mabel and Rushford, Minn., about 43 miles from La Crosse, stands a white, two-story farmhouse typical of many found throughout that section of Minnesota.

Motorists passing by might think it just another good farm. They might consider it so, that is, if they were traveling at a fast rate of speed. If they were going at a leisurely pace, however, and took just once glance at the yard of the home they would probably stop short and stare. And well they might.

It isn't often that the lawn of a farm home boasts a giant bust of Abraham Lincoln, is it? But this farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Landsverk and their son Halvor, is different from most.

To tourists and lovers of art it offers an unusual pleasure in an unique exhibit of sculpture and wood carving by this Norwegian father and son, done as a hobby in leisure hours when farming did not demand their attention.

Attracts Many Visitors

Visitors from many states who have come to the Landsverk farm once — attracted by the Indian head signs along the highways pointing out the exhibit—have returned again and again to see new products the craftsmen add to their collection each year.

Since early manhood wood carving has been Mr. Landsverk's hobby, but the tall, hospitable Norseman, who will celebrate his 80th birthday this fall, has had no formal artistic training.

His son, Halvor, a pleasant, intelligent blond young man of 30, models life-size statues in natural colors. A six-months' correspondence course in commercial art is the only training he has had. His inherent talent is primarily responsible for his remarkable work.

Halvor's bust of Lincoln, executed in 1933, was his first attempt at sculpture. Measuring nearly five feet across the shoulders, it is composed entirely of colored rock embedded in cement—blue granite, white flint, brown crystalline, iron oxide and other varieties, all difficult materials to work with. All of his statues are done in concrete, with color effects created by special concrete pigment and colored stones he has found in the region about the home farm.

"I chose Lincoln as my first subject because of his strong features and expression," Halvor explained this week. Besides the young man's desire for artistic expression an added reason for creating the bust, he smiling stated, was "to interest the neighbors and people passing by."

full regalia, 12 feet high and weighing three tons, has not been quite completed. Coloring must be introduced, and the old chief will hold a peace pipe when the work is finished.

Norwegian "Kubbestol"

Worth going the distance to see are the two Norwegian "kubbestol," chairs made from one piece of wood. These are the work of Mr. Landsverk, and are expertly designed and carved in basswood. Ornate designs present scenes of viking life, while carved on one of the kubbestol is an exact reproduction of the famous Kensington stone found four years ago by a farmer near Kensington, Minn.

Because the stone was flat and of suitable size, the farmer—unable to decipher the writing on it—used it as a step for his granary. Later it was found to contain a viking inscription telling of the journey of 22 Norsemen from Greenland to North America sometime between the 10th and 13th centuries. They came through inland waterways to Hudson bay, then to the northern Minnesota boundary, and down the Red river to Kensington.

Mr. Landsverk's carved Nor-

wegian cheese boxes, reproduction of a Viking drinking horn, and carving of a Viking, as well as his imaginative creation of a fairy sailing on an oak-leaf boat, are all beautiful pieces of work. A finely carved chain, entirely of wood, is an interesting aspect of the last-named work.

Halvor's work occupies most of the museum. An Indian scout on his pony, slightly under life size; a red fox and chimpanzee; a miniature rock garden with running water poured, apparently, by a sculptured Indian maiden with a water jar and also by a large sculptured flower, are found here. His statue of an angel holding a baptismal font has been borrowed for churches.

Statue of "Nisse"

Most amusing of the museum sculptured articles is a statue of a "nisse," a comical little fellow in Norse folk lore, comparable to a mischievous gnome. Many are the stories told by Norwegians of the "nisse" and their antics. If a door might slam on a stormy night, "it must have been the nisse." If one horse got thin while another got fat, the best reason was that "the nisse took oats from

one animal and gave it the other."

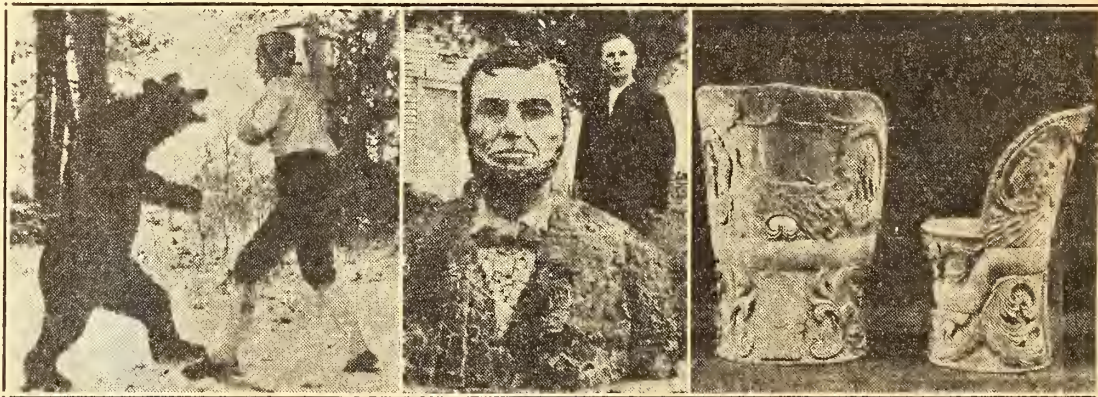
One of the classic Norse stories of nisse tricks is that of the Norwegian family who had been so harassed by one of these pranksters that they decided to move. As the whole family was going up the road in a wagon toward their new home, they met a friend who asked where they were going. Out popped the nisse from behind a barrel.

"Why, we're moving today!" he replied with a mischievous grin, and of course I'm going along."

Mrs. Landsverk is artistic, as well as her husband and son, and two of her hooked rugs—one showing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden are on display. Among Halvor's best work are busts of his parents, and his carving of an African jungle scene on a walnut plaque.

Three interesting collections are on display, in addition to the art work. One is of unusual sea shells from all coasts of this country. Another is of rocks from all parts of the world, including black ebony from West Africa, vermillion from India, and koko from the East Indies.

Exhibits In Landsverk Display



Three of the unusual types of craftsmanship on display in the Landsverk art exhibit near Rushford, Minn., are pictured above. Although the battle between the grizzly bear and Norwegian mountaineer (left) looks like the real thing, the figures were sculptured by Halvor Landsverk, 30-year-old Norwegian farmer shown standing besides his giant bust of Lincoln in the center picture.

To lovers of the artistic and fanciers of unusual furniture the two "kubbestol" at the right have especial interest. Each was carved from a single block of wood by Halvor's father, T. H. Landsverk, whose hobby is wood carving. Neither the father nor son are trained artists, for farming is their occupation.

Lewis

Colossal Head - Lewis

June 14, 1940

Mr. W. C. Opdycke
620 Joshua Green Bldg.
Seattle, Wash.

My dear Mr. Opdycke:

Our correspondence with Mr. Lewis with respect to the Huge head of Lincoln which he has made are due primarily to the thought that possibly we might have used it in the Exposition at San Francisco.

Of course, that is over now and we would have no call for such a colossal Lincoln as Mr. Lewis has created. Thank you nevertheless for calling this to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

8
June 5, 1940.

Dr. Louis Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Alonzo Victor Lewis, the sculptor, informs me that some time ago on one of your visits to Seattle, you were at his studio and saw the marvelous twelve foot statue of Abraham Lincoln, which took him four years to make. He tells me you were greatly impressed by this work of art, but felt that the cost of the reproduction would be entirely too great for you to be interested.

I have been working with Mr. Lewis on several other works of art which he has undertaken and in considering this Lincoln head felt that if some method by which it could be produced at a reasonable cost could be achieved, this statue could be placed and would be not only an inspiration to those who could see it but also could be used by you in furthering the interests of your company.

With this thought in mind and with the cooperation of the Cement Association a plan has been worked out whereby this statue can be made in varicolored cement so near in the appearance of bronze that close inspection would be necessary to distinguish the difference. With a cement background and base with fitting and proper inscription the entire cost erected anywhere in the United States would not exceed \$6500.

This opens two avenues for the erection of many of these statues for our country. You have adopted the name and policy which lends well to the use of this head in the education of the public to the advantages of your particular line of business. If you adopted this head, using it in advertising and erected it in your city and in other cities throughout the country, it would be a symbol of your business. The other avenue would be the forming of various patriotic associations of Lincoln Memorial societies throughout the country and through local drives to secure the necessary funds to erect this head in their own localities. These various statues erected by local organizations would carry no mention of your company but the very fact that you had adopted the head would become a life-long reminder to all who saw them of your organization.

If this were handled properly I think it would react

Dr. L. W.

-2-

greatly to your benefit.

As this is the first letter I have written you on this subject and as this is a very large undertaking, I wish you to consider it simply as a suggestion and open to improvement in its roughly outlined plan.

Although it may be hard for you to make an immediate decision, would you kindly show me the courtesy of acknowledging this letter, frankly stating what your first thoughts are after reading it.

Cordially yours,


W. C. Opdycke.

OP:LN

Address:

620 Joshua Green Bldg.,
Seattle, Washington.

March 24, 1949

Mr. Harry O. Mitchell
Seattle Chamber of Commerce
215 Columbia Street,
Seattle 4, Washington

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

Although I do not think it is likely that we would be in the market for the Colossal Head of Lincoln made by Alonzo Victor Lewis, possibly some of the other Lincoln pieces might be of interest to us. If you will kindly list what you have and the prices so that we might decide whether or not we care to acquire any of them, we will let you know.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

LIBRARIES PURCHASED
WANTS SOLICITATED
QUOTATIONS GLADLY
SENT
OLD - NEW - RARE
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February 3, 1949

Dr. Louis Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

10 In a conversation the other day with Mr. Harry O. Mitchell, who is manager of the World Trade Department of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, he happened to mention that he was at present custodian of a collection of Sculpture and Statuettes of Alonzo Victor Lewis. He mentioned as having quite a number of statues of Lincoln, including one which is said to be the largest statues of its kind ever made of Lincoln.

As he is searching for an outlet for disposing of these, I advised that he contact you. I have neglected writing you about it, and possibly he may have gotten in touch with you before this. If not, and you desire to know more about this collection, I would advise your writing him in care of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, 215 Columbia St., Seattle 4, Washington.

Hoping that this information will prove of interest to you, and thanking you for your many past favors, we remain

Yours very respectfully,

THE SHOREY BOOK STORE

BY

J. W. Todd, Jr.
J. W. TODD, Jr.

JWT,jr/s

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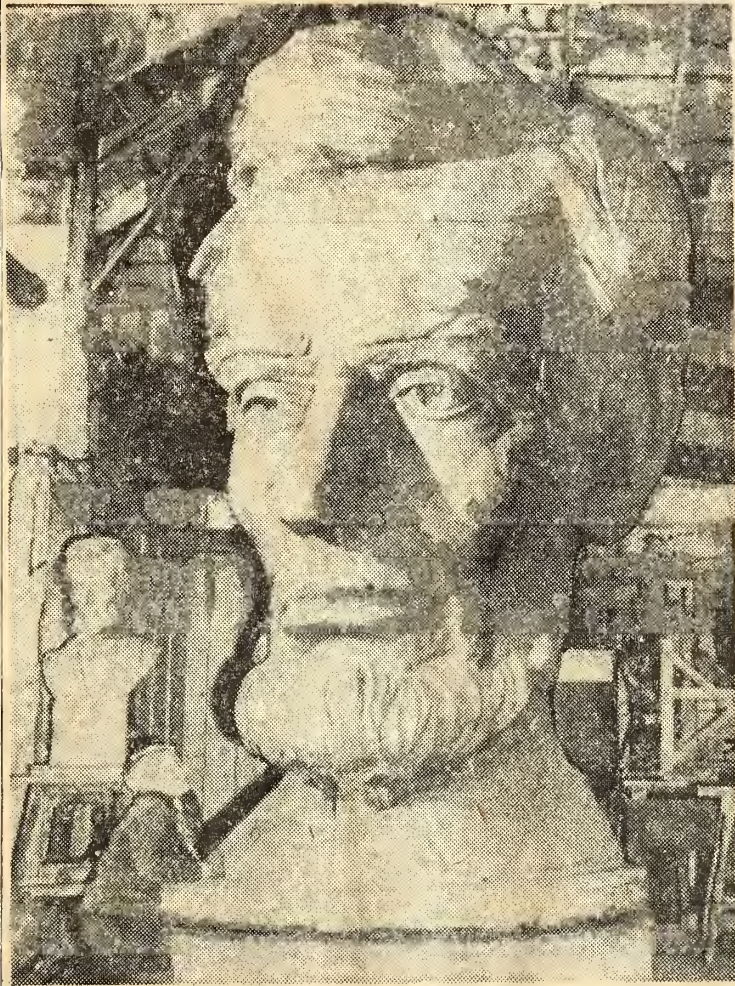


FOR SALE—Don McQuade, of Seattle, Wash., is waiting patiently for some one to come around with \$20,000 and take this 12-foot-high plaster head of Abraham Lincoln off his hands. He inherited the statue when he purchased the studio of Alonzo Victor Lewis, noted sculptor who died in 1946.

Lewis, Alonzo Victor

Seattle, Wash.

JOURNAL HERALD, DAYTON, OHIO



Pupil Has Famous Model

SEATTLE—A six-year-old art pupil takes a close-up view of an Abraham Lincoln head here as he prepares a Lincoln's birthday card. The plaster model, more than 11 feet high, was made by sculptor Alonzo Victor Lewis, who died some five years ago. The head was to be the first part of a full-length statue. Valued at more than \$20,000, the head is stored in a local movie production studio. (UP telephoto)

June 21, 1950

Mr. Harry O. Mitchell
Suite 311, World M&se. Mart
1931 Second Avenue
Seattle, 1, Washington

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

I was pleased to receive from Mr. E. H. Small, our representative at Seattle, your letter and illustrative material relating to the work of Alonzo Victor Lewis.

Two or three times before we have had up for consideration here the possibility of using the large head but we can find no place where it could be displayed to our advantage and, therefore, have on each occasion decided against acquiring it. In fact, almost before it was completed, I saw the head in the studio of Mr. Lewis at Seattle. It is just too big for us and we have no way we could place it to advantage.

I cannot feel we would be interested in the other subjects which you present inasmuch as we certainly would not have any of them cast in bronze as all emphasis on statues here is placed upon our own bronze statue of Lincoln.

While we appreciate very much the opportunity to make a bid on these items, I fear we will have to forego such a privilege. Thanking you for thinking of us with reference to these items, we are

Very truly yours,

LAW:CM
L.A. Warren

Director

P. S. All illustrative material is forwarded under separate cover.

LAW

HARRY O. MITCHELL
PUBLIC RELATIONS

SUITE 311 - WORLD MDSE. MART - 1931 SECOND AVE., SEATTLE 1, WASH.
TELEPHONE SENECA 6033

June 7, 1950

E. H. Small, Esq.,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
1411 Fourth Avenue Building,
Seattle 1, Washington.

Dear Mr. Small:

Further to our telephone conversation, I am transmitting herewith two photographs of LINCOLN sculptures by ALONZO VICTOR LEWIS, deceased: one showing the mammoth head (size 11 feet high by 8 feet wide) with a tear-sheet from the Saturday Evening Post illustrating a similar work; one showing a 4-foot statue.

I also enclose a tear sheet from the National Geographic showing an heroic-size head of Lincoln at the Plaza in Havana which is similar to one I have.

In addition to the foregoing, I have a 3/4-length statue about 18" high and a full-length one about 12" high.

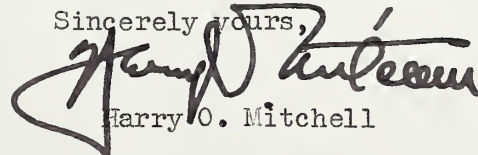
These are all in plaster, finished in antique bronze, and can be used to make molds for casting in bronze.

In discussing these with Dr. Warren, head of the Foundation, I suggest that the matter of price be left entirely in his hands. I shall be glad to entertain any reasonable offer. However, since I represent the sculptor's daughter, Mrs. Charmaine Gross, and do not personally own these pieces, I would have to refer any offers to her.

So far as I am aware, these are the only pieces of these sculptures extant. They were left in his studio at the time of the sculptor's death and neither I nor members of his family have been able during the past two years to trace any copies or bronze copies thereof, although it is possible that some do exist.

I very much appreciate your kindness in bringing these works before Dr. Warren at the Colorado Springs convention.

Sincerely yours,


Harry O. Mitchell

Seattle, Washington

Great Emancipator And Needle Sundaes



BIRTHDAY PARTY: An 11-foot plaster mask of Abraham Lincoln's face dominated the scene yesterday as Karan Jamieson, 4½, and Teddy Clifford, 2½, celebrated Lincoln's Birthday by sampling Space Needle sundaes at Elroy's Eatery and Ice Cream Parlor, 603 First Av. Elroy Pettyjohn, proprietor, served the sundaes. The half-ton mask was made by the late Alonzo Victor Lewis in the 1930's. It was loaned to Pettyjohn by its owner, Donald McQuade of Edmonds. Karan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Jamieson, 24045 24th Av. N. E. Teddy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy R. Clifford, 5314 29th Av. N. E.—Times staff photo by Ron De Rosa.



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

Title:

Photographer:

Date:

Caption:

Sculptor Alonzo Victor Lewis, Seattle, ca. 1927

McBride & Anderson Photographers

ca. 1927

Alonzo Victor Lewis (1886-1946) came to Seattle in 1920 after graduating from the Art Institute of Chicago. He was primarily known for his sculpture, but was also an excellent painter. He taught sculpture at the University of Washington, and was named Washington Sculptor Laureate by the State Legislature. In 1923, Lewis created a furor in the art world when his oil painting of

Notes:

Jack Dempsey was hung amid landscapes at the Kansas City Art Institute. Among his best-known works are the initially controversial "The Doughboy" at the Seattle Center, and "Victory Memorial" on the state capitol grounds at Olympia. Born in 1863, Ella McBride began working in the photography field in 1909 when she managed the Edward Curtis Studio. She opened her own studio in 1917 with Wayne Albee. Albee moved to San Diego in 1925, and McBride continued to operate a studio in various Seattle locations. In 1932 she partnered with Richard Anderson; they continued to work together until she retired in 1954 due to her failing eyesight. She died in 1965 at the age of 102.

This photograph was taken before the McBride-Anderson partnership began; it is not known which partner was the photographer.

Typed on sleeve: Alonzo Victor Lewis, ca. 1927. McBride Studio photo.

Subjects:

Sculptors--Washington (State)--Seattle
Teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names:

Lewis, Alonzo Victor

Places:

United States--Washington (State)--Seattle

Digital Collection:

Museum of History & Industry Photograph Collection

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LEWIS, ALONZO W.

DRAWING 22

SCULPTORS-L
(BUSTS)

